

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are in the case.

I. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,153,313 to Rigney et al. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,929,868 to Kelly. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention as claimed is directed to a method of stabilizing adherence of a ceramic layer to a bond coat of a TBC system. The method comprises incorporating silicon into the bond coat, and maintaining cobalt present in the bond coat at a level of 1-5 wt% and yttrium present in the bond coat at a level of 0.1-8 wt%. Basis for the range of 1-5 wt% Co appears in paragraph [0017], where it is stated that the cobalt may be present in a range 0-5 wt%, for example 0-1 wt%. Basis for the range of Y being 0.1-8 wt% appears in original claim 7, now canceled without prejudice. No new matter is entered.

As conceded on page 2 of the Action, Rigney does not disclose the presence of Co in the bond coat. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection over Rigney is accordingly respectfully requested.

In the invention as now claimed, yttrium is present in an amount of 0.1 to 8 wt%. Kelly makes mention of yttrium but in significantly lower amounts (0.01 wt% - claim 4). Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection over Kelly is accordingly respectfully requested.

II. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

Claims 11 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kelly. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

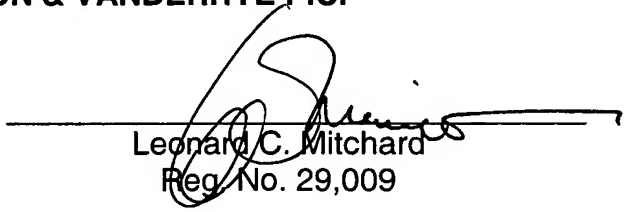
Claim 11 is dependent on claim 1, and claim 17 is dependent on claim 15. Both claim 1 and claim 15 require the presence of 0.1-8 wt% of yttrium. As noted above, Kelly does not disclose or suggest the presence of yttrium at this level. In light of this, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to arrive at the invention of claim 11 or claim 17 based on the Kelly disclosure. Absent any such motivation, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been generated in this case. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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